



**Sheriff James Mendrick**

“The DuPage County Sheriff’s Office is fighting the war on drugs on every level. I am asking you to help us, and more importantly your children, by taking the “First Step” if the need arises.”



So you can find out  
“What's Next”

We hope that you will contact one of the referral services listed below to seek help for your child or your family. Thank you for helping by taking the “First Step”.

**DuPage County Health Department  
Crisis Intervention Unit  
630-627-1700**

**DuPage County Department of  
Community Services  
630-407-6500**

# First Step

The program that helps parents  
fight drug abuse and assist in

# Drug



**DuPage County Sheriff’s Office  
501 N County Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-407-2400  
[www.dupagesheriff.org](http://www.dupagesheriff.org)**



## Is my child using Drugs?

“I found a baggie with some white powder and some pills hidden in my son’s room. He hasn’t been himself lately, his grades are bad and he’s hanging around with kids I do not even know. I’m so afraid that he may be using drugs. How can I find out what this stuff is?”

Parents who find what they believe to be drugs can take advantage of a program offered by the DuPage County Sheriff’s Office called **“First Step.”**

Chemists in the Sheriff’s Crime Laboratory will screen any suspected drugs. Parents may submit powders, pills, plant material, or any other suspect substance. The analysis will be completed as quickly as possible, **anonymously** and at **no charge**. Criminal proceedings will not be initiated, regardless of the outcome of the analysis.

## How does the program work?

A parent who finds suspected drugs in their home should call the Crime Laboratory and advise he/she is interested in the **“First Step”** program. Calls can be made Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The phone number for the Crime Laboratory is (630) 407-2100. Parents are not required to provide their name, phone number, or any other identification.

The caller will be told how to properly package and deliver the substance to the Crime Laboratory. In most cases the caller will be asked to affix an identification number to the packaging. This number serves as a safeguard in the event the parent is stopped by the police while en route to the Sheriff’s Office. Using this number, the Crime Laboratory can verify that the parent possesses the substance because he or she is participating in the **“First Step”** program. Upon arrival at the Crime Laboratory, a drug chemist will be assigned to screen the questioned substance for the presence of cannabis or a controlled substance. In most cases, this is done while the parent waits for the results. If a chemist is unavailable, or if the parent does not wish to wait, he or she may call back to get the results.

If drugs are found in the submitted sample, parents will be encouraged to contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this brochure for intervention options.

All substances are retained by the laboratory for disposal.